

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Evangeline Hall

PERSON

Hall, Evangeline, 1915-2013

Alternative Names: Evangeline Hall;

Life Dates: September 6, 1915-July 30, 2013

Place of Birth: DeLand, Florida, USA

Occupations: Civil Rights Activist

Biographical Note

Civil Rights activist Evangeline Jennings Hall was born September 6, 1915, in DeLand, Florida. Her mother, Minnie Brooks Jennings, was a schoolteacher before giving birth to her seven children. William Jennings, Evangeline Hall's father, worked three jobs every day to feed his family.

Hall (then Jennings) attended segregated schools, but does not remember experiencing racial tension. She had a gift for playing the piano, and served as her church's organist. Hall attended Bethune-Cookman College and, in her thirties, Hall and her husband moved to Bradenton, Florida and separated. Discovering Bradenton was terribly prejudiced, Hall and four other activists formed the Biracial Committee with the support of Mayor A. Sterling Hall. Mayor Hall worked to end some of Bradenton's Jim Crow laws, including separate water fountains, and swore that no lynchings would occur during his administration. Even with the mayor's assistance, however, the Committee was largely unable to integrate business establishments.

Evangeline Hall spent 47 years working in the insurance industry for Central Life Insurance. She became an agent and an assistant manager before becoming the company's first female African American manager. She was also the first black woman to serve as the president of the local Democratic Party. As a member of the League of Women Voters, Hall registered people to vote for many years. Mayor A. Sterling Hall awarded Evangeline Hall the key to the city in recognition of her accomplishments.

Hall passed away on July 30, 2013.

Related Entries

Euclid Avenue Learning Center [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Bethune-Cookman University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Central Life Insurance [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Insurance Agent

Central Life Insurance [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1982 to 1988]

Assistant Manager

Central Life Insurance [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1969 to 1989]

Manager

Biracial Committee [MEMBEROF]

[from 1986 to 1994]

Democratic Women's Club [MEMBEROF]

[from 1991 to ?]

Florida League of Women Voters [MEMBEROF]

[from 1992 to ?]